

BELPER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

RICHARD CLAYTON ALLEN.

M.R.C.S.(Eng). L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Birm.).

for the

YEAR 1949.



"Riversdale",  
Belper,  
Derbys.

June, 1950.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman & Members of the  
Belper Rural District Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1949, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, together with the Vital Statistics and observations on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors.

Although many matters still call for improvement, I consider the health and conditions of the district generally, may be regarded as satisfactory.

The death rate is higher than the previous year i.e. 11.73 against 10.1 per 1,000 population. The average for the last ten years is 11.23.

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart disease	106	Tuberculosis	13
Pneumonia	14	Cancer	39
		(all causes)	

The birth rate per 1,000 estimated population is 16.15 or a slight decrease on the previous year, which was 16.19.

Last year, in my sixteenth report to the Council, I touched upon the items of progress made during the previous two decades and in the past year you have continued to move forward and materially advanced the conditions of the district. Houses have been erected, water supplies and sewers extended and the scavenging schemes are more comprehensive. You have programmed for a wise distribution of houses over the whole area and within a measurable distance of time, largely for the urbanisation of the rural areas as far as general amenities can be made available.

You will recall that in 1933 I succeeded the late Doctor Morrison as your Medical Officer, and therefore this is my seventeenth Annual Report, and as, for health reasons, I have to retire, will be the last time I shall have the pleasure of addressing you as Medical Officer of Health. In terminating my connection with the Council and Public Health Services, I take with me many memories of your generous and helpful attitude towards myself throughout the years. Recalling the sympathetic consideration always extended I know that whoever my successor may be, you will continue to him the like liberal and generous support.

I again desire to thank all Members of the Council and the Clerk, Mr. H.H. Creaser, for their courtesy and confidence; also Mr. J. Laycock, Chief Sanitary Inspector and the staff for their co-operation and loyal service.

I remain Madam & Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN, D.P.H., M.O.H.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Belper Rural District is an area of 48.074 acres, comprising 28 parishes within a circle of approximately a ten miles radius, extending from Matlock Urban in the north to the Borough of Derby at the south, on the east touching the Districts of Alferton, Ripley and Ilkeston, whilst Wirksworth and Ashbourne are on the western boundary. The parish units have no common standard for comparison, but vary very considerably in area, population and rateable values.

Representation on the Rural District Council also varies, one parish sending three councillors, and in other instances, one representative sits for two parishes. The total representation is 30 councillors.

Area of District in acres	48,074
Population, 1931 census	22,956
Population, 1949 estimated	28,040
Number of inhabited houses	8,479
Rateable value. (Allowing for probable adjustments)	£173,820
Sum represented by a penny rate	£690.4.10.
Total loan debt	£733,772.
Debt for Housing only	£636,607.
Houses erected during the year:-	
by Council	96
by Private Enterprise	20
Total	116

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>BIRTHS.</u>			
<u>Live Births.</u>			
	228	225	453
Legitimate	215	214	429
Illegitimate	13	11	24
Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population			16.15
<u>Still Births.</u>			
Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Deaths. (Under one year of age).</u>			
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	2	-	2

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	30.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	83.3

## Infantile Mortality.

All infants per 1000 live births	33.1
----------------------------------	------


## Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.

Puerperal Sepsis	nil
Other puerperal causes	nil

## Death Rate.

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population	11.73
Deaths from Cancer:-	

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
(All forms)	20	19	39
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years).	nil	nil	nil



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28916359>



# DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1949.

The following Table shows the causes of deaths registered in the year 1949.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	1		1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	7	5	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis		1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1		1
Influenza	5		5
Acute Inf: enceph.		1	1
Cancer of buc:cav: and œsoph:uterus:	1	2	3
Cancer of Stomach and duodenum	5	4	9
Cancer of breast		5	5
Cancer of all other sites	14	8	22
Intercranial vascular lesions	22	23	45
Heart disease	46	60	106
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	8	12
Bronchitis	9	3	12
Pneumonia	8	6	14
Other respiratory diseases	4	2	6
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1	4
Appendicitis		1	1
Other digestive disorders	3	2	5
Nephritis	3	3	6
Premature births	3	4	7
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile disorders	2	3	5
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents	3		3
Other violent causes	5	1	6
All other causes	19	16	35
TOTALS	169	160	329





# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The hospitals to which the cases of infectious disease occurring in the district may be removed are Derwent Hospital, Draycott Hospital, Infectious Diseases Annex and the Belper Hospital, which is situated within the area of the Urban District of Ripley.

Persons suffering from tuberculosis infections also may be removed to Derwent Hospital or the Walton Sanatorium, Chesterfield.

## CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Polio Myelitis.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Respiratory T.B.	Non-Respiratory T.B.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Meningococcal Meningitis.	Totals.
ALDERWASLEY	3						3			6
ALLESTREE	1		2				76	17		96
ASHLEYHAY										-
CRICH	3		1		1		11	27		43
DARLEY ABBEY					1		6	3		10
DENBY	2		4		2		9	11		28
DETHICK, LEA & HOLLOWAY					1		1	4		6
DUFFIELD	1		1		3		17	5		27
HAZELWOOD.	4									4
HOLEROOK	1						1			2
HORSLEY			1				1			2
HORSLEY WOODHOUSE	1	1	11	1	1	1	7	1		24
IDRIDGEHAY & ALTON							1			1
KEDLESTON							3	2		5
KILBURN	3			1	2	1	8	3		18
KIRK LANGLEY.	2		1							3
MACKWORTH										-
MAPPERLEY			1	1			1		1	4
PENTRICH							1			1
QUARNDON							8	2		10
RAVENSDALE PARK										-
SHOTTLE & POSTERN	5		1				1			7
SHIPLEY	2			2			15	2		21
SMALLEY	11		4	1	1	2	19	5		43
SOUTH WINGFIELD.	2		1				8	8		19
TURNDITCH							7			7
WESTON UNDERWOOD							1	7		8
WINDLEY							4	2		6
<u>Totals.</u>	41	1	28	6	12	4	209	99	1	401

There were no cases notified for the following diseases:-

Puerperal Pyrexia.  
Paratyphoid.  
Cerebro Spinal Fever.  
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.  
Bacillary Dysentery.  
Diphtheria.

There was one death from Whooping Cough.



TABULATED BELOW IS THE AGE INCIDENCE OF THE CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1949.

	<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Scarlet Fever		1	2	4	3	25	2		3	1			41
T.B. Pulmonary									7	2		3	12
" Non-Pulmonary					1	2			1				4
Pneumonia		1				2	1	2	2	3	6	11	28
Erysipelas											2	4	6
Whooping Cough	6	13	16	16	14	31	2		1				99
Measles	7	15	22	26	26	98	6	3	2	2		2	209
Polio-Myelitis											1		1
Meningococcal Meningitis			1										1
TOTALS	13	30	41	46	44	158	11	5	16	8	9	20	401

So few have been the cases of infectious diseases amongst the children that again it has not been considered necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Again the County Medical Officer of Health has forwarded the following summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations, carried out in association with the Medical Research Council, made of various samples submitted from this area during 1949.

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative.</u>
	C. diphtheriae organisms	1	25
	Vincent's Angina	2	23
	Haemolytic Streptococci	11	17
	Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	2	20
x	Water	17	13
	Milk:-		
x	Methylene Blue Test, Routine Samples	-	2
x	Phosphatase Test -do-	-	1
	Coliform Test		
	Tubercle bacilli, Inoculation Test-Routine Samples	1	23
	Tubercle bacilli, Inoculation Test-Min. of Agriculture.	6	26
	Clinical Specimens	13	15
	TOTALS	53	166
<hr/>			
x	Positive - Unsatisfactory		
	Negative - Satisfactory		

Sputum specimens and swabs are taken by the medical practitioners and forwarded direct for examination to the Derbyshire County Council's bacteriologist. The County Council Bacteriologist and the County Council Chemist undertake on behalf of the Council all the bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses.

R.C. ALLEN.  
Medical Officer of Health.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.  
YEAR 1949.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural District of Belper lies to the south of Derbyshire. The altitude of the area varies very considerably from 150 O.D. at Darley Abbey in the south to 1,000 O.D. in the north at Ashleyhay. The River Derwent, entering the rural district at Lea Wood, on the 260 foot contour, flows from north to south, dividing the area fairly equally into east and west, the eastern parishes are where the industries are found, and the residential and agricultural parishes are sited chiefly on the West bank of the River Derwent. Very great and extensive damage continues to be caused by opencast mining, wholefarm holdings in the south eastern parishes are being ripped open and there fertility will be lost for years.

PRINCIPAL LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

Mining, and in recent year, Opencast Mining, Agriculture (largely milk production), Limestone Quarrying, Cotton and Hosiery Manufacturing give employment in the area.

STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a part time appointment. The Chief Sanitary Inspector and two Additional Sanitary Inspectors are full time Officers of the Council, and also act in like positions as Building Inspectors. The Clerical Staff is also part of the Buildings and Housing Section of the Department. The Ministry of Health, through the County Council re-imburse to the Council one half of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

WATER SUPPLIES.

You will recall, how last year, comment was made upon the progress of the water supply scheme for the Western Parishes of your district and that an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, had held an official enquiry into the proposal. In these days, when it is necessary to impose controls and restrictions, this scheme has been fit into the Ministry's programme and given a starting date, 1st., November 1950, by which time your Engineers will have taken steps to have the Quantities for the work prepared.

Despite the very dry summer, there was no actual shortage of water in the Rural District where a public supply is available.

The water supplies taken from the mains of the Derwent Valley Water Board, Shardlow R.D., Derby Corporation, and the Duffield scheme for a population of approximately 24,500, have been of satisfactory quality.

During the year 8 samples of water were taken from Dethic Springs and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Council's departments. Six were found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes.

In November, owing to the adverse reports from the County Medical Officer of Health, the water from Dethic Springs, which supplies the Crich area, was cut off, and the whole requirement for that area was taken from the Derwent Valley Water Board. These conditions are now receiving the consideration of your engineers.

Samples of water taken from wells at Main Road, Wheatcroft and Bank House, Wheatcroft, for chemical and bacteriological analyses, were found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes. No precautions were taken against the plumbo solvent action of the Duffield water.



Good progress during the year has been made with the Smalley, Mapperley and Shipley Water Scheme, and the pressure to the higher levels in the parish of Smalley has been greatly improved by connecting to the new scheme.

In the parish of Turnditch 40 houses are supplied from street stand pipes, and a like supply is provided for 6 houses in the parish of Kilburn.

There remains in the whole district 949 houses without a public mains supply of water or an estimated population of 3,325.

I am indebted to Mr. F. Horsley, The Council's Water Manager for the preceding data.

#### SCAVENGING.

Mapperley and Shipley remain the two parishes where all the house refuse and nightsoil are removed by contract. The pail closets in the parishes of Horsley Woodhouse, Kirk Langley, Mackworth and Smalley are emptied by contractors. That is the only service given under contract labour.

The direct labour schemes for the other parishes keep the 7 refuse collecting vehicles fully employed. The fleet comprises 3-7 cub. yard Karrier Bantams,, 2-10 cub. yard Karriers, 1-7 cub. yard Dennis, 1-10 cub. yard Dennis and one Austin lorry converted to a nightsoil tank lorry. One new Dennis was purchased during the year. There are normally 30 workmen employed full time on this collection, and I am pleased to state that overtime is rarely worked, and that nightsoil is not collected in the dark, which would necessitate the men groping their way to the rear of premises by the aid of a flash lamp or hand torch. The best possible conditions exist in this service, yet the sickness incidence in this section appears unaccountably to have increased during the last years. The house refuse is carted to tips maintained by the Council and it is most difficult to obtain tips suitably sited. The total cost of the Scavenging Service for 1949 was £12,649, or a rate of 1/7.86d. in the £.

#### SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL .

Apart from the necessary extensions for the housing estates development, there has been no alteration to the sewerage systems in any part of the area. Capital expenditure on some of the outfall works is considered desirable, but has been deferred in view of the priority drive for housing accommodation. The fifteen most populous parishes are sewered, or over 80% of the houses in this rural district have been provided with facilities of house drainage. There are 14 disposal plants controlled by the Council which deal with the greater flow of sewage, the remainder being treated by neighbouring authorities, with whom the Council have entered into agreements. Conversely, this Council accepts a small amount of sewage from some of these authorities.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that the greatest number of sanitary conveniences are W.C.'s. It is estimated the closet accommodation of the area is divided between:-

6322	houses	with	W.C.'s	
19	"	"	Waste Water Closets	
1835	"	"	Pail Closets	
347	"	"	Privies	

During the year there have been 33 pail closets and 15 privies converted to the water carriage system.

In view of the fact that the Council now make a contribution towards the cost of converting the closet accommodation to W.C.'s, this progress is regarded as somewhat disappointing. The Kilburn area, though well provided with sewers, has the largest number of pail closets.





## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Though meat inspection is one of the important duties to be carried out by your Inspectors- as it is also in most of the slaughterhouses in England and Wales - it has been little practised during the year. The slaughter of animals for food takes place outside the Belper Rural District under the control of the Ministry of Food and anti- and post-mortem examination is exercised in those slaughterhouses. From the slaughterhouses the dressed carcasses are taken to a distribution centre, allocated to the butchers and transported in covered lorries to the retail shops. No diseased meat has been found in the shops and only a small amount has been returned to the distribution centres on other grounds.

The Council have granted to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, licences to slaughter or stun animals for food for human consumption.

Also under the supervision of the food supplies in the district, we have, additional to various quantities of meat, found it necessary to condemn as unfit for the food of man:-

4 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs of bacon  
6 " " sausages.  
89 tins of milk.  
6 " " vegetables.  
3 " " meat products.  
2 jars of sandwich spread.

All food was voluntarily surrendered.

Under the Food & Drugs Act, the sampling officer is an official employed under the County Council. Only in exceptional circumstances would your officers be required to take food samples under the above Act.

A "Nil" return was forwarded to the Ministry of Health, Whitehall relating to cases of "Food Poisoning" (Food & Drugs Act, 1938) for the year 1949.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 401 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year as against 353 cases notified in 1948. Not all infectious diseases call for close investigation, neither is disinfection of all premises carried out. It was deemed advisable to carry out the disinfection of 36 premises and in 17 other cases were investigations made by the Inspectors. Medical Practitioners requested the removal of 20 cases to hospital. Formaldehyde gas is used for all disinfection.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

On the 1st October, 1949, the Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies Act), 1944, was brought into operation, which vests power in the appropriate Minister to legislate for specified topics. The Milk and Dairies Regulations are revoked.

In future the registration of dairy farmers and dairy farms will be the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and not the local authority. Milk distributors, that is persons carrying on the trade of a dairyman from premises to which the above does not apply, shall be registered by the local authority. Therefore the inspection of farm premises, the structural alteration of cowsheds and drainage etc., largely is taken away from the duty of the local authority, but they remain the authority for the enforcement of the provisions of the regulations which deal with milk infection in both classes of registered premises. It may be considered that now, with additional control over the buildings and the subsidy, even greater improvements in the conditions under which milk is produced, may be expected.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector of the County Council has notified me that six new registrations of Tuberculin Attested herds have been granted, giving a total of 20, and there are 120 Accredited Milk producers.



## HOUSING ACT, 1936.

There were 83 inspections made, and 20 re-visits, under the Housing Act, 1936, during the year, 1949.

Informal notices were served for defects and disrepair, most of the work being carried out as a result of the informal notices. Two Statutory Notices were served under the Housing Act.

One house was demolished on the grounds that the structure was unsafe.

There are many old houses which are in a fairly good state of preservation though lacking in those modern amenities which now are accepted as standard in the houses erected by the Council.

A preliminary housing survey has not been completed, but it is estimated that 2.5% of the houses would be classed as definitely sub-standard and not worth the expenditure necessary to make them in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

These will be dealt with when the Council have completed its present housing programme.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

### Part I.

<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(1) re Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6.	24	-	-
(2) Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	34	14	4
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced.	16	-	-
Total	<u>74</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>

### Defects Found.

<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>
Unsuitable or defective.	5	3	4
Not separate for sexes.	1	1	1
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

### Part VIII

#### Outwork(Sections 110 and 111).

Number of Outworkers. - 46.

#### Wearing Apparel.

The premises in the area to which the Factories Acts apply are small concerns and call for no special observations.



BELPER RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Record of Action taken on Inspections made during  
the Year, 1949 by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Inspections, numbering 2,999, were made by your Inspectors during the year, of all classes of premises within the Council's area. By personal contact with owners and agents much good work is accomplished of which no report is made.

Given below is a list of notices served under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

	<u>Number of</u> <u>Notices served.</u>		<u>No. of Nuisances</u>
	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Legal.</u>	<u>Abated with or</u> <u>without Notice.</u>
<u>CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.</u>			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits.	5		5
Conversions of Privies into W.C.'s.			15
Conversions of Pails into W.C.'s.			33
Defective Water Closets.	13		11
Provision of Ashbins.	10		8
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>			
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps and Drains.	4	3	6
Drains obstructed.	4		25
<u>OTHER DEFECTS.</u>			
Paving of Courts and Yards.	3		2
Defective Roofs, Eavesgutters, etc.	42	8	40
Sinks.	1		1
Windows.	8	2	8
Dampness	38	8	39
Water in Cellars.	2		2
Water Supply	5	1	5
Foul Condition of House.			3
Nuisances not specified above.	66	12	62
<u>TOTALS.</u>	201	34	265

Total number of inspections and revisits under the Public Health Act, 1936 = 1086.

INDUSTRIAL INSPECTIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops.	43	One Notice requiring cleansing was served.
Bakehouses.	3	
Knackers Yards and Slaughterhouses.	4	
<u>TOTALS.</u>	50	1

May I again thank you for the confidence placed in me, and for your co-operation throughout the year.

Also to the Officers of the Council for their unstinted assistance I desire to express appreciation.

(Signed) JAMES LAYCOCK.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.









